

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of forming a hose into a desired shape, the method comprising the steps of:

    cutting a hose into a desired length, said hose having a first end and an opposing second end;

    drawing said desired length of said hose into a forming tube having an inner surface that defines an inner passage that defines a desired tube shape, wherein the step of drawing occurs after the step of cutting said hose, said forming tube including a vacuum end and a loading end, wherein the step of drawing said hose includes inserting said first end of said hose into said loading end of said forming tube and applying a vacuum to said vacuum end of said forming tube;

    positioning a vacuum endcap on said vacuum end of said forming tube such that said first end of said hose contacts said vacuum endcap;

    positioning a loading endcap on said loading end of said forming tube such that said opposing second end of said hose contacts said loading endcap;

    curing said desired length of said hose into said desired shape while said hose is located in said forming tube;

    finishing said first end and said opposing second of said hose by the contact of said first end and said opposing second end against said vacuum end cap and said loading endcap, respectively, during the step of curing; and

    removing said hose having said desired shape from said forming tube.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of holding said forming tube stationary.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 2 wherein a clamping block holds said forming tube stationary.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of lubricating said hose before the step of drawing.

5-6. (CANCELLED)

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 15 wherein the step of removing said hose includes applying pressure to said vacuum end of said forming tube.

8.-10 (CANCELLED)

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 1 including the step of flaring at least one of said first end and said opposing second end of said hose.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 11 wherein the step of flaring said at least one of said first end and said opposing second end of said hose includes inserting a plug into said at least one of said first end and said opposing second end of said hose, and said plug has an outer diameter greater than an inner diameter of said hose.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein said hose is a polymer.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein said forming tube is one of plastic, glass, Pyrex, ceramic, and metal.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the step of curing said hose includes submerging said hose and said forming tube in a hot fluid.

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the step of curing said hose includes employing an electric wrap.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the step of curing said hose includes microwaving.

18-25. (CANCELLED)

26. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the step of curing occurs after the step of drawing, and the step of removing occurs after the step of curing.
27. (CANCELLED)
28. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 1 further including the step of lubricating said hose before the step of drawing, wherein the step of drawing said hose includes inserting said first end of said hose into said loading end of said forming tube and applying a vacuum to said vacuum end of said forming tube, and the step of removing said hose includes applying pressure to said vacuum end of said forming tube.
29. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 28 wherein the step of curing occurs after the step of drawing, and the step of removing occurs after the step of curing.
30. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the forming tube is formed of a single component.
31. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein there is no support structure inside the hose during the step of curing, and pressure inside the hose prevents the hose from collapsing.
32. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein pressure inside the hose prevents the hose from collapsing
33. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein an inner surface of the hose is substantially smooth.
34. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein an outer surface of the hose is substantially smooth.

35. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein a material of the hose defines an outermost layer of the hose.
36. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the first end and the opposing second end of the hose are flush with the vacuum endcap and said loading endcap, respectively, during curing to create a flat surface.